

Khaddam leaves hospital

DAMASCUS, Dec. 14 (R). — Syrian Foreign Minister Abdul Halim Khaddam, who was injured in an assassination attempt on Dec. 1, left hospital here last night. His wife, who was struck by a bus as he rushed to her husband's aid after he was hit by three bullets fired by a motor cyclist outside Damascus, was also released from hospital. They may go to Europe soon to convalesce, according to informed sources.

JORDAN TIMES

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Badran visits Damascus

AMMAN, Dec. 14 (R). — Prime Minister Mudar Badran and the Chief of the Royal Cabinet, Sharif Abdul Hamid Sharaf, returned here tonight from a flying visit to Damascus where they met Syria's Prime Minister, Gen. Abdul Rahman Khleifawi. This is Mr. Badran's second visit to Damascus within a month. Dr. Rifaat Assad, the brother of Syria's President Hafez Assad, is still in Amman on an official visit. He arrived here yesterday and is due to leave for home tomorrow.

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West Bank calls for general strike

MALLAH, Occupied West Bank, Dec. 14 (Agencies). — Arab leaders in Ramallah and Nablus -- the West Bank's largest town -- have urged the Israeli authorities of plans to hold a one-day general strike tomorrow in protest against the self-imposed value-added tax (VAT) on goods and services.

Youths in the other towns have been distributing leaflets calling residents to join the strike.

The mayors and chamber of commerce presidents of Bethlehem, Beit Sahur and Beit Jala, north of Jerusalem, met today and decided to close down all commercial establishments tomorrow, called on workers employed by Israel to stay home.

Mayor Elias Freij of Bethlehem said reporters that the municipal council and chamber of commerce of his town had urged shops to remain closed in support of the strike.

Protests continued today as Israeli security forces used tear gas to break up a street demonstration. Palestinians here.

Shots were fired in the air by Israeli soldiers, but no casualties were reported in the shooting.

The protests spread to East Jerusalem, with young people erecting barricades and setting fire to bins of oil in front of three schools.

In Hebron, the walls of a mosque were covered with anti-Israeli and pro-Palestinian slogans.

Israeli authorities meanwhile say they will intervene tomorrow if public order is breached. Senior Israeli military officers meanwhile visited Nablus, where a large detachment of troops arrived yesterday, and warned the mayor that any disorderly demonstration would be firmly dealt with.



PROTECTING CHURCH? — Three Israeli soldiers armed with M-16 automatic assault rifles walk past the Church of the Nativity (Christ's birthplace) in Bethlehem on the occupied West Bank during a patrol Tuesday. The West Bank has been the scene of violent Palestinian protests against Israeli occupation forces recently. (AP wirephoto).

Rhodesia conference adjourns till Jan. 17

LONDON, Dec. 14 (AFP). — British Foreign Secretary Anthony Crosland today announced the adjournment until Jan. 17 of the Geneva conference on Rhodesia. Mr. Crosland told parliament that conference Chairman Ivor Richard would leave for Africa immediately after Christmas to consult all parties involved in attempts to get a Rhodesia settlement. These parties are the five "front-line" states -- Tanzania, Zambia, Mozambique, Botswana and Angola -- and South Africa and Rhodesia.

In his statement to the House of Commons, the foreign secretary said that Mr. Richard would "develop our positive ideas for a settlement, including the direct role Britain would be ready to play in the transitional period." Mr. Crosland said that "for all the angry statements" by the white Rhodesian and African nationalist delegations at Geneva, there was "a good chance of achieving a peaceful settlement in Rhodesia." The foreign secretary added he might himself go either to Africa or to the general conference when it resumed "if it proves necessary or desirable."

In Geneva, British sources said today that Britain had finally accepted the idea of providing a governor general or resident commissioner who would exercise fairly wide powers during the transitional period before independence and majority rule. The sources also said that British officers might be delegated to command the Rhodesian army, but that it was very unlikely that British troops would occupy ministerial posts in the interim. The sources said that the conference would resume in Geneva despite the high costs there, because no agreement had been reached on an African capital as a venue.

Sarkis, truce committee open disarmament talks

BEIRUT, Dec. 14 (Agencies). — The Arab League stepped in today to try to resolve a protracted dispute about bringing heavy arms used in Lebanon's civil war under supervision of the Arab peace-keeping force here. A four-power committee, set up by the league to supervise the month-old civil war truce, held its first meeting with President Elias Sarkis today.

The most urgent topic was the rival factions' reluctance to put their heavy arms -- from machine guns to tanks -- into arsenals supervised by the predominantly Syrian peace force. "This is what we are studying now," said Saudi Arabian Ambassador Gen. Ali Ti Shaer after talks lasting one hour and 45 minutes.

As the committee met, the right-wing Phalangist Radio reported a bomb explosion in rightist east Beirut. It reported no casualties when the bomb wrecked the car of a Phalangist political bureau member, Mr. Karim Pakradouni.

But this latest in a series of bombings and shooting incidents, involving political figures, dramatized the need for the Arab League and President Sarkis to consolidate the truce. Fighting on the main battlefronts ended a month ago, on Nov. 15, when the 30,000-man peace-

keeping army was deployed through most of the country under an Arab League mandate to impose peace.

Few details emerged from this morning's first meeting between President Sarkis and the Truce Supervisory Committee. But it was disclosed that talks are to be arranged on the arms issue between Palestinian resistance leader Yasser Arafat and the committee, which includes representatives of Syria, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

The commandos -- civil war allies of the Lebanese left against the rightwing -- interpret a 1969 Cairo agreement regulating their presence here to mean they can retain some heavy arms.

The rightists reject this. They cite the Palestinian attitude in defence of their own reluctance to "store away their arms" -- the literal translation of the Arabic phrase used to describe what the peace force wants done.

Today's bomb explosion in east Beirut came within 24 hours of a meeting of leaders of the main fighting parties at which they said they had averted a split in their alliance.

At odds were the Phalangists and the National Liberal Party (PNL) of former President Camille Chamoun, following a gun battle in an east Beirut street around a Chamoun motorcade in which two men died and several people were injured. The battle was started by an argument over the right of way in the street.

In another development, right-wing Phalangist Party leader Pierre Gemayel said today he was prepared to close down the party's radio station if the state asked him to.

Mr. Gemayel was speaking to reporters here after a meeting with Prime Minister Selim Al Hoss.

Asked whether the talks had dealt with the question of the radio station's closure, he said: "If the state asks us to close down the radio, we shall do so immediately."

But he added: "There is nothing to prevent private news media in Lebanon such as a radio station."

Several radio stations representing the various fighting factions were opened the 19-month civil war. The two main ones, the leftist Beirut Radio and the rightist Amshit Radio, have already been united under the supervision of the Information Ministry.

Arafat briefs Assad on council's meetings

Communique maps out Palestinian strategy

DAMASCUS, Dec. 14 (Agencies). — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat left here today for Beirut following a two-day meeting of the Palestine Central Council (PCC).

Leaders of the PCC, including Mr. Arafat and Mr. Khaled Al Fakhour, Chairman of the Palestine National Council (PNC) had yesterday met President Hafez Assad of Syria for four hours and briefed him on the PCC's meetings on Sunday and yesterday.

A communique stressing the need for Palestinian unity was issued to mark the end of the PCC meeting which began with the announcement that Palestinian leaders Yasser Arafat and Zuheir Muhsein had reconciled and ended with the Palestinian-Syrian summit.

The communique said the PCC would back an expanded PNC and its reconvening before February 1977.

The PNC is to endorse plans for action by the Palestinian movement which were adopted by the PCC. The PNC could be increased from 186 to 250 members in order to broaden representativity, the communique said.

The communique also reaffirmed Palestinian support for the Arab summits of Riyadh and Cairo in October which outlined a settlement of the Lebanese conflict as well as for the 1969 Cairo accord between Lebanon and the Palestinians on Palestinian military presence in Lebanon.

CARTER "FEELS VERY GOOD" ABOUT OPEC'S ATTITUDE

ATLANTA, Georgia, Dec. 14 (R). — President-elect Jimmy Carter said today he believed there had been progress towards reaching an understanding with oil producing states over the expected rise in oil prices.

He told a press conference here that both Secretary of State Henry Kissinger and his nominee for the post, Mr. Cyrus Vance, had been talking to the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) about oil prices.

OPEC ministers meet tomorrow to decide whether to put up prices and by how much.

Mr. Carter said there was a general realization that raising oil prices might be "counterproductive" to OPEC and would have a profound effect on less well-off countries.

"I believe some progress has been made," he said. "I feel very good about their attitude." As was widely expected, Mr. Carter today named German-born industrialist W. Michael Blumenthal to the post of U.S. treasury secretary.

Mr. Carter told the news conference that liberal Democratic Congressman Brock Adams, 49, would be his transportation secretary.

MEETING PLACE -- The Gulf Hotel in Doha, Qatar, where, on the seventh floor, oil ministers of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) meet Wednesday to determine future oil prices. In the foreground is the militarised zone with gunboats in the harbour. (AP wirephoto).

Views expected to settle on a 10% price rise

OPEC opens crucial meeting today

DHA, Qatar, Dec. 14 (Agencies). — The scene was set here today for the opening tomorrow of crucial talks by ministers of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) on a rise in crude oil prices as from Jan. 1. Oil ministers of the 13 member countries began arriving here overnight for the conference, as massive security measures were implemented by Qatari authorities. Commenting on the meeting, held at Doha's Gulf Hotel, protected by light armoured vehicles, Qatar's army, Indonesian Minister for Mines and Petroleum Mohammad Sadli said an increase in crude prices would seem "logical" after a 18-month "freeze".

OPEC has kept prices frozen since October 1975 at \$11.51 for a standard barrel of OPEC crude oil. But the rise, he said, should be a "moderate and modest" one, which should take into account the requirements of world economic recovery as well as the problems faced by the non-oil developing countries. Questioned by correspondents, he said a rise of 10 per cent would clearly be more "moderate and modest" than one of 15 per cent.

The main thing, in his view, was that the 13 member countries of OPEC remained united, whatever their final decision.

Among the first delegation heads to arrive here last night were the Oil Ministers of Gabon, Libya and Ecuador -- Mr. Edouard Mbouy-Boutat, Mr. Ezzedin Al Mabruk and Mr. Rene Vargas -- as well as the Indonesian minister and OPEC's Secretary General Mr. O. Feyide of Nigeria.

They were greeted at the airport by Qatar's Finance and Petroleum Minister Sheikh Abdul Aziz bin Khalifeh Al Thani, and military vehicles escorted them to the Gulf Hotel, where all delegates will be staying.

The strict security measures taken by authorities here were clearly intended to avert any recurrence of incidents similar to the commando attack at OPEC's headquarters in Vienna last December in which virtually all OPEC ministers were held as hostages for nearly 24 hours.

A tight security cordon was placed around the Gulf Hotel, and only persons wearing special badges were allowed to enter the building after being searched by police. The luggage of delegates was checked by means of an X-ray device, apparently for arms.

In the weeks leading up to the conference the United States has led a diplomatic campaign to persuade OPEC to hold the price rise to no more than 10 per cent.

Western governments claim that any higher rise could interrupt the economic recovery of the Western powers and further weaken the poorer nations of the Third World which OPEC says it champions.

The conference will be formally opened tomorrow morning by Sheikh Khalifeh bin Hamad Al Thani, the ruler of Qatar.

Qatar's Minister Sheikh Abdul Aziz Al Thani, who will be chairman of the conference, told reporters that OPEC could not allow Western inflation to continue to erode the purchasing power of OPEC members' oil revenues.

The minister declined to forecast how big the increase would be.

He also proposed the immediate introduction of production planning within OPEC. There was now an excess capacity of two million barrels a day in world oil production, and a system whereby production would be linked to demand should be introduced, he said.

Iraqi Oil Minister Tayeb Abdul Karim said on his arrival here that oil prices should increase by more than 25 per cent.

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The price of oil - II

The blunt truth of the energy picture throughout the world is that the Western states have decided, consciously or not, to depend on imported OPEC oil for the next decade at least, and probably for the next quarter of a century. Forecasts vary, but it is clear, as a report by the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC) said recently, that oil will continue to make up the lion's share of the world's energy supplies. While oil's share will certainly drop proportionately to other energy sources such as coal, nuclear energy and gas in the total energy consumption picture, the absolute production of oil will likely keep rising steadily for the next 20 years, at least. World oil production today is some 50 million barrels a day, of which OPEC produces roughly half. OAPEC projects that world oil production by 1990 will be 78 million barrels a day, of which OPEC would produce some 50 million barrels. This means that if the world demand for oil keeps rising — which is certain to happen — the only possible source of meaningful additional quantities of oil will be the OPEC states, and, incidentally, primarily the Arab ones.

This has been shown on a small scale during the past three months, when the anticipation of an oil price rise has caused Western oil companies to buy and stockpile as much oil as they can. This oil has come primarily from Saudi Arabia. Saudi Arabia, which had been producing some 6.5 million barrels a day recently, raised production during the past two months to an average of 9.5 million barrels a day. Iran has been pumping out its oil at about 99 per cent of its technical production capacity of 6.6 million barrels a day.

Recent studies by various people show that oil consumption in the United States and the EEC countries will keep rising steadily over the next 25 years. U.S. oil demand is now some 17 million barrels a day, and is expected to hit 24 million barrels a day by 1990, a full half of which will have to come from OPEC. The EEC picture is similar, where demand for OPEC oil will rise from today's 10 million barrels a day to 12 million barrels a day by 1985, even after North Sea production is taken into account. In 1973, the United States imported 36 per cent of its oil. This year, the figure will be 42 per cent; next year, it will be 46-50 per cent. Furthermore, while the U.S. had traditionally relied upon Canadian oil for the bulk of its imports, it is now getting less Canadian oil and is relying more and more on OPEC imports, which this year have risen 30 per cent in relation to all imported oil in America. Within this long-range picture, the Alaska and North Sea oil reserves are little more than drops in the bucket. All they can do is help slow down the growing dependence of the West on OPEC oil.

This means one thing: OPEC oil will be in greater Western demand than ever during the coming decades, and thus the demand forces of the marketplace will allow the oil producers to set whatever price they feel is fair to them, and acceptable to the buyers. The uncomfortable reality for the West is that it can do little to change this, and it has shown over the past three years that it still does not have the will to try and do anything serious, such as initiate realistic conservation policies or use other available energy sources (primarily coal).

For reasons unknown to us, the United States and Europe still have not attempted to work out and apply anything that can be called an energy policy. They prefer to ask for and receive more oil from the OPEC states, while for assorted reasons, political, economic and social, they still drag their feet when it comes to exploiting their own vast energy sources as a partial alternative to OPEC oil.

In this situation, the oil consumers have only made themselves more dependent upon OPEC, and thus more vulnerable to the policy and price dictates of the OPEC states. What has happened during the past three years is that OPEC has capitalised on this vulnerability to bring up the price of oil to a level that is, to it, more "fair", in the sense that it is more viable. During the past months, as the West has stockpiled oil, the price of a barrel of oil has gone up some \$5.00 to about \$12 a barrel, because of the demand pressures. Is it not a little bit strange that while the West's own impulsive demand drives up the price of oil, the West simultaneously says that the price of oil should not go up? If the West does not play according to the rules of the marketplace, and it also does not wish to play by the rules of OPEC monopoly price-setting, then what are the OPEC states to conclude?

They would be correct to conclude that the West seeks only to perpetuate the old system by which oil companies set the price of oil and Western consumers set the production figures of the oil-producing states. But this system has been killed and buried.

What does it require for the West to wake up to the reality of the new distribution of economic power among the world's commodity producing and consuming states? It has not learned from the five-fold oil price increase since 1973. It has not learned from the 15-month OPEC oil price freeze since September 1975. It has not learned from the protracted and still resultless global economic dialogue of the past two years. It has not learned from the flop of its International Energy Agency experiment. It has not learned from its unsuccessful attempts to break up OPEC. It has not learned from its own lassitude and inertia in formulating and applying an energy policy any more sophisticated and meaningful than simply stockpiling oil.

In other words, the West has done nothing to alter the forces within the global energy arena, but it still barks loudly against what should be another anticipated and acceptable rise in the price of oil.

If the West has learned nothing, OPEC has learned that actions speak louder than words. Our feeling is that more action on the oil price front is one way that the West will finally learn that it cannot forever ask the OPEC states to produce more and more oil. In the end, this will serve the best interests of the West, the OPEC states and all nations. If the West still does not appreciate this, it should be made to appreciate it, for the good of the entire world.

HASSAN VISITS CENTRAL BANK

AMMAN (JNA). — His Highness Crown Prince Hassan Tuesday paid a visit to the Central Bank of Jordan where he was received by the ministers of finance, education, and minister of state for prime ministry affairs, the governor of the bank, the president of the National Planning Council, and other high ranking employees.

Prince Hassan also met with a delegation representing the Arab Company for Investment in Asia. The delegation came here to negotiate the possibility of participating in developmental projects mainly the establishment of a complex for wood industries in Aqaba.

Rural development projects discussed

AMMAN (JNA). — Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs Ibrahim Ayyoub Monday received Mr. Monti, Director of Care Organisation in Jordan and discussed with him a joint programme for developing rural communities in Jordan.

The programme includes build-

British company will supervise construction of Amman new airport

AMMAN, Dec. 14 (AFP). — The British Sir Frederick Snow company will supervise construction of Amman's new airport, 25 kms southwest of here under a JD 2.2 million contract agreed here Tuesday, government official source said.

The airport itself will cost JD 36 million, with most of the work financed by West Germany. Supervision was earlier awarded to the American Bechtel company, but this had been changed for "technical and administrative reasons", the source said.

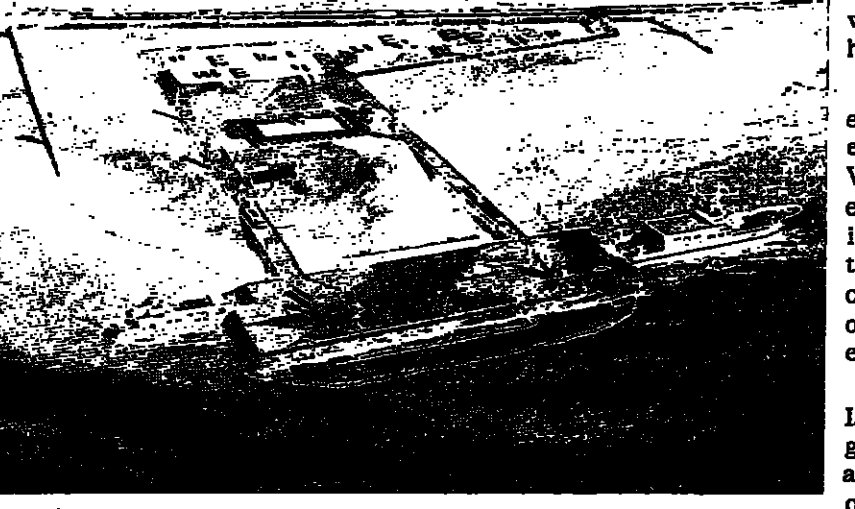
Floating berth to be constructed in Aqaba

AMMAN (JNA). — An agreement for constructing a floating berth in Aqaba Port was signed with the Japanese company IHI Tuesday. The cost of this quay is about JD 1.5 million. Work on the quay will end in August.

This step comes within the efforts of the Ministry of Communications to develop the port to be able to handle the increasing docking, loading, and unloading of ships, Minister of Communications Ali Suheimat said.

Another floating berth, under execution now and expected to be completed in April, costs about JD 2 million and includes stores and yards for handling goods movement, the minister added. The completion of the two quays will increase the handling capacity of the port by 50 per cent, the minister said.

The agreement was signed by Mr. Ali Suheimat and the Japanese manager of the company here.



The new floating berth as it will look upon completion.

Microwave project agreement signed

AMMAN (JNA). — An agreement to implement the Jordanian part of the Jordanian-Syrian microwave project, was signed here between the Telecommunications Corporation and the Italian company, Italtel, Monday.

The local part of the project will link Amman with Irbid with 120 telephone channels in the first stage, expandable to 180 channels.

Exchange Rates

Following are the official exchange rates in effect at the start of today's business day, as set by the Central Bank of Jordan.

The first column is how much you would receive in Jordanian fils for selling a unit of the foreign currency, while the second column denotes how much it would cost you to buy a unit of the foreign currency:

U.S. dollar	332.0	334.0
U.K. sterling	563.0	569.0
Swiss franc	135.7	136.2
German mark	139.0	139.4
French franc	66.7	67.0
Italian lira (for every 100)	38.5	38.7
Syrian pound	82.7	84.4
Lebanese pound	117.0	119.8
Saudi riyal	94.0	94.9
Iraqi dinar	952.0	960.0
Kuwaiti dinar	1150.0	1157.0
UAE dirham	83.0	83.7
Libyan dinar	715.0	730.0
Egyptian pound	465.0	475.0

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NOTICE
Friends of Archaeology present a slide lecture on recent excavations at Petra by Dr. Philip Hammond at the British Council today, Wednesday, Dec. 15 at 6 p.m.

What's Going On

The Goethe Institute in cooperation with the Committee of the Department of Sociology at the University of Jordan and the Jordanian-German Friendship Society presents a lecture on "The German-Arab Relations, Development and Prognosis." 5:00 p.m. at the Goethe Institute, Jabal Amman.

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King Hussein will open 1st Arab ministers of culture conference



Minister of Culture and Youth, Sharif Fawwaz Sharaf (fourth from left), speaks in the press conference Tuesday. (JNA photo).

AMMAN (JNA). — His Majesty King Hussein will open the first conference of the Arab ministers of culture to be opened at Al Hussein Youth City here Monday Dec. 20.

The aim of the conference is to introduce Arab culture to the world and establish cultural cooperation among Arab states.

In a press conference Tuesday,

the Minister of Culture and Youth Sharif Fawwaz Sharaf said that Jordan "is happy to host this big Arab cultural gathering". Twenty Arab countries are sending delegations to the conference. In the Arab World, the cultural addition to the delegations from planning procedures, organisations the Arab Education, Culture and Science Organisation and the United Nations Education, Science and Culture Organisation (UNESCO), Sharif Sharaf added.

he added.

ARAB PRESS COMMENTARY

Al Ra'i and Al Sha'b Tuesday ridiculed contradictory Israeli policy towards the representation of the Palestinians at the Geneva Middle East peace conference, which the U.N. General Assembly has just proposed to reconvene.

Al Ra'i writes that while (Israeli Premier) Yitzhak Rabin stresses that the mayors of the occupied West Bank are legitimate representatives of the people of Palestine, he does not forget to harass them, ignore their legitimacy or order the expulsion of one or two of them from their municipalities... and their homes.

The paper continues to say that Israel, which used to avoid recognition of the Palestinian people and their legitimate representation, expressing readiness to negotiate with Jordan only, has now de-

clared it is ready to negotiate with Jordan and the West Bank mayors...

Al Ra'i says that while the representation of these mayors cannot be disputed, anyone who wants to discuss the Palestinian issue seriously should do that with the Palestine Liberation Organisation...

"Whoever follows the graph of Israeli retreats since 1967 when Golda Meir said there was no people called Palestinians, until yesterday when Rabin reached the conclusion that the Palestinians were still existing but avoids meeting with them — we say whoever makes a survey of the graph will understand that area of Israeli evasion will gradually diminish until it completely vanishes," the paper says.

Al Sha'b thinks that by raising the question of Palestinian representation, with the West Bank people as the "more rightful representatives", Israel wants to fix the question prior to the resumption of Geneva, in order to create discord among the Palestinians, particular and baffle the Arab position in general. It is no less than a new Zionist trap intended to divide the Palestinians themselves over the choice of such a delegation, its terms of reference and on, Al Sha'b adds.

Al Sha'b appeals to the West Bank people not to fall into the Israeli trap, but to adhere to the Rabat Arab summit resolution (which declared the PLO as the sole representative of the people of Palestine.)

On a different subject but unrelated to the M.E. problem, Dostour says that the Arab Yemeni Republic (San'a) has appeal to the other Arab countries help defend the strategically important strait of Bab Al Mandeb. At the same time the Israeli press admitted that one of the functions of the F-15 planes, the first squadron of which has already arrived in Israel from the United States, is to ensure the safety of Israel's naval route through the waterway.

Thus, the paper says, the defence of Bab Al Mandeb and protection of its air space has become a mooted question at Arab level. And it may be a most serious defence question which Arabs ought to tackle without delay, in view of the fact that Bab Al Mandeb strait is the key to the Red Sea — highly strategic water passage.

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Tell Deir Alla digs help uncover the many secrets of Jordanian history

By Virginia Buchanan
Special to the Jordan Times

Every morning in the Jordan Valley, the top of Tell Deir Alla is a scene of activity. Diggers, sweeping, shovelling, carrying, measuring, scraping, potting, tracing wall lines, pondering, joking and appraising shreds.

Excavated open-air rooms, archaeologists hammer nails into the earth to outline ancient brick walls, or cut a trench through human skeletons, layers of plaster and broken pottery.

On a terrace, Dr. H.J. Franken, Director of Palestinian Archaeology of Leiden, Holland, and Dr. Gwijah Ibrahim of Jordan's Department of Antiquities, discuss the jagged vertical floor lines raising testimony to violent earthquakes.

Two other specialists march, stretching tape measures across walls, recording the figures, while a brigade of workers continually passes back and forth carrying out the dirt and debris of thousands of years' accumulation.

At the bottom of the hill, on the other side, Mohammad Murad of the Antiquities Department is squaring out a new room in the Late Bronze Age level, tagging stratification and digging around a fireplace.

This is the "dig" of the Dutch

Archaeological Expedition under the joint direction of Dr. Franken and Dr. Ibrahim. The team consists of six men from Leiden University and eight from the Antiquities Department, including four excavators trained at Jericho.

Financed by the Dutch Organisation For Advancement For Pure Scientific Research, Dr. Franken started working on the site in 1960, and has come back five times to continue unravelling the Tell's hidden mysteries.

Being also a theologian, anthropologist and linguist, he brings a wide background to his work as an archaeologist.

During his first digs, he completed the stratification from the Late Bronze Age (1500-1200 B.C.) through Iron Age I and II (1200-500 B.C.); a Persian occupation from 539-332; and a medieval Arab cemetery. Pleased with his pottery inventory from all those periods (a complete typeology in time sequence), he remarks with a smile: "But historians are never impressed with what we bring from the dig unless we have found something to read. So we brought them documents (10 clay tablets) and they still can't read them."

Tell Deir Alla, the "monastery" or "house of the god," rising bald and steep out of the surrounding green fields, is a startling mound that excites the imagination of even the non-archaeologists. There are 40 other tells -- artificial hills covering ancient towns -- and archaeological sites scattered along the valley, but none with the size and presence of Deir Alla.

Roughly 200 square metres at the base and 30 metres high, the yawning gashes on the north side are the results of the experts' years of toil to expose its story.

As the sun rose higher the other day, and the back-breaking work became hotter, the men mopped their brows and stopped for the tea-break. Climbing out of the excavations, they sat on the Tell top, evaluating the morning's progress as the cook poured refreshing mint tea. The view was superb, across the green valley and other tells to the shimmering mountains, and the fresh, joyous smell in the air belied the rain, wind and duststorms of last month.

"When I began this project," said Dr. Franken, "I worked on the assumption that all that was known Biblically on this side of Jordan comes from people looking at it from Jerusalem, telling us what the priests and prophets thought about it. But that is like looking at a coin from only one side. If we had a similar book written in Amman, the stories would be different; not to say contradictory, but in a different light."

"Perhaps Deir Alla is the Biblical Sukkoth mentioned in the story of Jacob and the Angel. After Jacob crossed over the stream where he struggled with the angel, he went on to Sukkoth, but there is also a place called Ikhlas, which means 'booths'. So there are two possible identities for Sukkoth. What happened? How to interpret? You can't use the Bible as a textbook for archaeology."

He is seconded by Dr. Ibrahim, Director of the Sahab excavations near Amman, and recently Lecturer on the History and Interpre-

tation of Palestine Archaeology at Tubingen University, Germany: "We are not working to confirm the Bible, which is a kind of archaeology very much influenced by present religious and political ideology. The interpretation of the archaeological material should tell its own story, independent of primary and secondary literary sources, unless they prove to be right and contemporary. This is how our cooperation with Dr. Franken came about."

"When I first came to Deir Alla," Dr. Franken related, "I said jokingly to my colleagues, 'You want this to be the Biblical site because you can get here by car!' Then I learned there really was an ancient tradition of a large sanctuary here, but long before the Bible story."

The archaeologists found the sanctuary! A temple with an altar,



A side view of Tell Deir Alla, with excavation sites visible in the centre of the Tell. (Photos for the Jordan Times by Hubert de Haas.)

built on a man-made mound, which indeed dates back to the beginning of the Late Bronze Age, about the 16th century B.C. Since no walls protected it from the warring tribes, the sanctuary must have served a mighty powerful god, respected by all.

The temple was used until the 12th century B.C., when it was destroyed by an earthquake. We know the date by an Egyptian faience vase bearing the cartouche of Queen Taousert that was found on the temple floor. Though worshippers who attempted to rebuild the sacred monument were stopped by a disastrous fire, the spot kept its holy character through Iron Age I and II (1200-500 B.C.), which is shown by a structure of that time containing fragments of ritual vessels and incense.

During their fourth season of digging in 1964, the archaeologists

suddenly came upon three clay tablets, 13x5x2 cms., inscribed in a strange script; and later, they found seven more which bear mysterious dots in groups and series. The "messages" have not yet been successfully decoded by the historians.

However, this dramatic find was topped during the next dig in 1967 by the discovery of a translatable Aramaic text of the 7th century B.C., written on a large piece of plaster covering a mud brick wall. The problems of salvaging, restoring, transcribing and translating it are enormous, and it has taken years.

"When I first began excavating," Dr. Franken said, "I had such a strong intuition against this certain area that I wouldn't touch it, sensing that it was going to cause a lot of problems and cost a lot more money than I had at the time. And my intuition was right -- the cost has been staggering, but the text can be read and the historians are happy! The text speaks of a prophet named Bileam, son of Beor, as head authority of the Deir Alla Sanctuary, which confirms the archaeological interpretation that Deir Alla was an ancient Jordanian sanctuary completely independent of the ancient Hebrew religion and influence -- culturally, politically and religiously -- during the period of the Judean Kingdom."

(The plaster text, painstakingly mounted, may be seen along with the clay tablets in the Amman Archaeological Museum.)

Expedition headquarters this year, as luck would have it, is a new modern rented house near the Tell, rather than the tents of other years. Mrs. Franken is one of a trio that rules there, watching the finances and the cooking, and making sure no one gets sick.

The dig ends today, Wednesday, Dec. 15 and now the real work begins, the months of documenting, studying and interpreting the newly found material, further adding to our knowledge of the human story.

The Tell Deir Alla is situated half-way up the Jordan Valley, right on the highway. The best way to get there is to go to Salt and take the north road (to Nablus) that soon winds down over the heights. Deir Alla is about three kilometres north of the junction of the high road with the low road in the valley. There are many beautiful picnic spots around, so take a lunch and buy some cold soft drinks at one of the roadside stands along the way.

RADIO JORDAN

(On 856 KHZ)	14:45	Fifteen weekly
7:00 Breakfast show	15:00	Concert hour
7:30 News bulletin	16:00	Old favourites
7:40 Morning melodies	16:30	Easy listening
8:00 Sign off	17:00	Thriller
12:00 Pop session Pt. I	17:30	Pop session Pt. III
13:00 News summary	18:00	News summary
13:05 Pop session Pt. II	18:05	Pop session Pt. IV
14:00 News bulletin	18:30	Science report (rep.)
14:15 Radio magazine	19:00	News bulletin
14:30 Pop session Pt. IIB	19:10	Music
	19:30	Sign off

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Khifan Tel. 44198	Mahd	" 22038
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AMMAN AIRPORT

Departures :	Arrivals :	GMT
8:00 Aqaba	7:00 Jeddah	05:00 World News; 24 hours
9:05 Rome (Alitalia)	8:00 Jeddah	05:30 Composer of the Week
9:30 Damascus, Aleppo	8:25 Muscat, Doha	05:45 The World Today
10:00 Larnaca, Athens	8:30 Jeddah	06:00 News; Press Review
11:00 Vienna, Copenhagen	8:45 Karachi, Abu Dhabi	06:30 Terry Wogan's LP Showcase
12:00 London	9:40 Aqaba	07:00 News; 24 hours
13:15 Beirut (MEA)	12:15 Beirut (MEA)	07:30 Composer of the Week
15:00 Doha, Abu Dhabi.	14:15 Athens (GA)	07:45 Report on Religion
Muscat (GA)	14:20 Jeddah (SDI)	08:00 News
15:45 Riyadh, Dhahran (SDI)	15:00 Aleppo, Damascus	08:15 The Mill on the Floss
16:30 Cairo	17:55 Amsterdam, Brussels, Geneva	09:30 John Peel
18:55 Kuwait, Dhahran	18:20 Athens, Larnaca	09:00 News; Press Review
20:00 Baghdad	19:50 London (BA)	09:30 Financial News
20:50 Rawalpindi (BA)	21:25 Frankfurt, Munich, Damascus (Lufthansa)	09:45 Paperbacks
	22:00 Jeddah	10:00 Talkabout
	23:10 Cairo	10:30 Opera Review

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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Jordan Electric Power Co. (emergency)	" 36381-2
Municipal water service (emergency)	" 37111-3
Police headquarters	" 39141
Najdeh, roving patrol rescue police, (English spoken) 24 hours a day for emergency help	" 21111, 37777

Cultural Centres

American Centre (USIS)	Tel. 41520
British Council	" 36147-8
French Cultural Centre	" 37009
Goethe Institute	" 41993
Soviet Cultural Centre	" 44203
Amman Municipal Library	" 36111

BBC RADIO

14:30 Who Needs Adoption	15:00 Radio Newsreel	15:15 Outlook	16:00 News; Commentary	16:15 My Music	16:45 The World Today	17:00 News	17:09 Discovery	17:40 Book Choice	17:45 Sports Round-up	18:00 News; Radio Newsreel	18:30 Top Twenty	19:00 Outlook : News Summary	19:42 Stock Market Report	19:45 Portraits and Landscapes	20:00 News; 24 hours	20:30 Take it or Leave it	21:00 Report on Religion	21:30 Great Piano Composers	22:00 News; The World Today	22:25 Financial News	22:45 Sports Round-up	23:00 News; Commentary
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JORDAN TELEVISION

Channel 3 & 6	9.15	Arabic series
6.00 Quran		
6.05 Cartoons		
6.30 Agricultural programme		
7.00 Lucy show		
8.00 News in Arabic		
Channel 3	7.30	Sports programme
7.30 Sports programme		
8.30 Arabic series		

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China starts to build cult around Hua Kuo-feng

HONG KONG (CSM). — It is barely seven months since Hua Kuo-feng emerged from relative obscurity to become the No. 1 figure in China, and already he is being portrayed as a model of virtue worthy of being the successor to Mao Tse-tung.

The Chinese press is picturing Mr. Hua as selfless, straightforward, far-sighted — an experienced revolutionary leader with a thorough knowledge of Marxist theory and practice.

But in line with cultural tradition, it also emphasises that he holds his authority because of his personal virtue — which other citizens would do well to emulate — and because of his commitment to the welfare of the people.

The transformation of Mr. Hua's image from that of a loyal follower of the late Chairman Mao to a man worthy of leadership in his own right is being accomplished with a series of well-publicised testimonials said to come from teachers, students, peasants and workers who have observed Mr. Hua's work and character since he began as a local Communist Party administrator.

Although Mr. Hua is still praised as a loyal follower of Chairman Mao, the emphasis has gradually shifted. Now Chairman Mao is being commended for having the wisdom to recognise Mr. Hua's abilities.

And whereas Mr. Hua was widely quoted not long ago for re-emphasising the revered thoughts of Mao Tse-tung, he now finds his own quotations enshrined as guides to action.

His exhortation to "be meticulous in organisation and direction" (following the recent Chinese hydrogen bomb test) gradually has come to represent his emphasis on careful administration, economic progress and selection.

EGYPT'S DEBT HITS \$11B.

CAIRO, Dec. 14 (AFP). — Egypt's external debt stands at 4.6 million Egyptian pounds (\$11 billion), Premier Mamedouh Salem told the People's Assembly here two days ago.

At the same time its balance of payments deficit touched \$2.4 billion for last year and this year, he said.

He called on Egyptian citizens to accept their responsibilities and increase production and cut down spending in order to improve the country's financial situation.

tive use of foreign technology to make the country modern and strong.

Chinese readers also have been told for the first time something of Mr. Hua's family, the existence of which had been generally unknown.

Just recently the Peking People's Daily revealed that Mr. Hua has a wife, at least one daughter, named Hsiao Li and several other children, although their names and the name of his wife were not included in the report.

The revelation that Hsiao Li attended No. 166 Middle School (high school) in Peking also served to demonstrate that her father has long put the interests of his country before those of his family: Mr. Hua sent his daughter to work in the countryside after her 1974 graduation, the newspaper said, because Chairman Mao had declared: "The countryside needs educated young people, and educated young people need to go to the countryside in order to temper themselves."

According to published tributes said to have come from peasants in Hunan Province, where Mr. Hua began as a party official, he "was often seen helping people study revolutionary theory under an oil lamp . . . discussing production plans with them in front of their thatched huts, working alongside them with a sickle or a plow."

President-elect: Don't emulate Nixon's habit of globe-trotting for the fun of it

By Joseph C. Harsch
WASHINGTON D.C. (CSM) — As one who watched Richard Nixon do the European circuit one month after his first inauguration in 1969 I have mixed feelings about the idea of President-elect Carter doing anything similar come February next.

One theory is that a quick economic summit modelled on the one President Ford attended in Puerto Rico would give Mr. Carter a chance to meet the political leaders of the friendly and allied countries. He ought to meet them fairly soon after his inauguration. And he ought to go to call on them because he is the "new boy" in the community.

It would be right and proper for him to make his round of courtesy calls and pay his respects. He does not know any of them yet, and they don't know him. There is a lot of getting acquainted to be done.

But a quick economic summit would inevitably be more of a public relations stunt than a substantive meeting. It will take Mr. Carter at least six months after coming to high office to get hold of the major problems of the federal budget and its relationship to the American economy.

He can't possibly be in a position to discuss constructively any of the economic problems weighing upon the Western world until he has first hammered out the outlines of his own economic policies with the leaders of the Congress in Washington.

A useful summit is one which

comes at the end of a long process of preparation and negotiation. The leaders can then come together to complete the last stage of negotiation and sign agreements which are well prepared and largely complete before the meeting takes place.

Presidents and prime ministers don't negotiate agreements at summits, they only sign them. A quick summit could not be anything more than a substitute for a round of courtesy calls.

If a summit were honestly set up as a sort of family gathering little harm could come of it. But can it be set up that way — and, indeed, can Mr. Carter or any future American president break out of the dreadful ceremonial fabric which has come to surround the presidency?

In looking back over the record I notice that Mr. Nixon took "18 top government officials" with him on his 1969 post-inaugural tour of Europe. The record says that during the eight days of the trip "he conferred with West European leaders in Brussels, London, Bonn, West Berlin, Rome, Paris and the Vatican as well as with North Atlantic Treaty Organisation officials and with the U.S. negotiating team at the Vietnam peace talks in Paris."

On Mr. Nixon's return from this eight-day ordeal of travel during which no such thing as a real "consultation" ever took place, he told the American people the trip had "established a new relationship of trust and confidence that did not exist before" between the

United States and its European allies.

To put it politely, that claim of any "new relationship" was rhetorical bombast. When a new president visits seven European capitals in eight days, accompanied by an entourage of 18 high officials of his court, he is making his courtesy calls, and showing off his pomp and circumstance in the process.

No new relationship was forged with allies in 1969. Indeed, no new relationship was even possible un-

til after Mr. Nixon had extricated the United States from what the European allies regarded as a dangerous over commitment of American military power on far side of the world in Vietnam.

After that there was a considerable improvement because the American military power on the far side of the world was once again able to concentrate on the problem of containment in Europe — which course is of first concern to the

If only an American president could just go over for a week, getting acquainted with a horde of court officials, minus a bulletproof limousine, minus a gaggle of police, minus two loads of American reporters, nothing of substance to report the trip would be modestly a

ful. But if that is impossible — perhaps Mr. Carter would wisely to stay quietly in Washington, mind the shop there and off his foreign visits until it is really something special justify a trip.

After all, a president is not an ambassador, nor an economic expert. He is supposed to "preside" in Washington over the affairs of the federal government.

Woodrow Wilson was the first president to leave the United States during his term of office and was severely criticised for doing so. The second Roosevelt went overseas, in time of war as war leader.

The first globe-trotting president was Richard Nixon. The suits do not make a strong case for imitation.

The more it drags, the more it costs

LONDON, Dec. 14 (AFP). — The Geneva Rhodesia conference has already cost the British taxpayer £200,000 since it began on Oct. 25, according to Foreign Office Under Secretary of State John Tomlinson. Mr. Tomlinson's estimate was contained in a written statement to the House of Commons last week.

The statement said expenses amounted to £30,200 a week: £4,500 to Chairman Ivor Richard and his delegation, £25,400 for secretarial and other services and £20,300 for the five Rhodesian delegations.

The British government agreed to pay delegates' travel expenses to Geneva plus a daily allowance of £50 to nine members of each delegation.

Aston Martin drags itself out of financial quagmire

LONDON, (LPS). — Only a few months ago Aston Martin, one of the most famous names in the annals of the British sports car, seemed about to vanish through financial difficulties. But today Aston Martin Lagonda (1975) is very much back in business, with well-filled order books, a streamlined organisation and favourable prospects.

Back in 1913 two car enthusiasts, Lionel Martin and Robert Bamford, started their own small company, Bamford and Martin Ltd, to produce sports cars — and they christened their products Aston Martin. The origin of the second half of the name is obvious, and the first half was borrowed from Aston Clinton, the Buckinghamshire scene of a famous hill climb of those days; Martin thought the two went well together.

Entered Racing

After World War I Aston Martin cars began to establish themselves in motor sport, including racing. They were reliable and durable, which some of their competitors were not, since they were built with care and the materials and components were of high

quality. However, in the mid-1920s the firm had a period of near inactivity but was reformed in 1926 as Aston Martin Ltd at Feltham, 20 km from London, with A. C. Bertelli in charge of design.

Bertelli, a racing driver of considerable skill, appreciated that to sell relatively expensive small sports cars at that time, a successful racing background was essential. He therefore completely redesigned the cars and in 1928 began an intensive 2.5 litre racing programme covering many major sports car events including the renowned Le Mans 24 Hour Race. During the years of this programme many famous British racing drivers competed in Aston Martins, which gained a lot of success in their class.

As foreseen by Bertelli (who by then had taken command of the company), these racing achievements established Aston Martins as machines for sports car connoisseurs. In addition to being functional, the road-going models of the 1930s really looked the part. Towards the end of that decade the company extended its range upward by introducing two litre models to supplement the 1.5 litre

cars to which it had been faithful for so long.

Supply Difficulties

The outbreak of World War II in 1939 soon brought production to a halt. It was slow to get off the mark again when peace was restored, because of lack of finance and the enormous supply difficulties of those days. Then David Brown — an industrialist with a thriving tractor and gear manufacturing business — appeared on the scene. He had long yearned to build really good sports cars, so he made an offer in 1947 for the Aston Martin business. This was accepted and he set about founding a new sports car dynasty, that of the DB Astons.

Since David Brown loved the Le Mans race his first car was built for the 1949 event on the Sarthe circuit. It was powered by the last engine designed by the famous W. O. Bentley for Lagonda (another ailing British sports car manufacturer bought by Brown in 1947). The following year a production version, the DB2, was introduced aimed great acclaim.

During the next 16 years variants of the DB2 were followed by the DB4, 5 and 6 road cars. For the DB4, the original 2.6 litre six-cylinder engine had grown to 3.7 litres and a further enlargement to four litres was made for the DB5 and 6.

By 1959 the Feltham facilities had been outgrown, so the company was transferred to Newport Pagnell, which is also near London, where it has been ever since in a factory formerly given over to specialist coachwork. The DB4 was the first car to be produced there.

Prime Objective

During the production years of the DB2 and 4 road cars the racing activities continued; Le Mans remained David Brown's prime objective but his sports racing cars took part in many other major events.

Their greatest year was 1959 when Aston Martins were not only first and second at Le Mans but became the only British make ever to win the World's Sports Car Championship. By 1960, however, the cost of racing was becoming excessive for the company's resources, so participation was progressively reduced and the racing shop was reluctantly closed in 1962.

Thereafter the DB5 (1964) and DB6 (1966) models carried on the firm's high reputation, and the next milestone was reached in 1968 with introduction of the classic DBS. This beautiful, two-door sports saloon has continued to the present day with only minor modifications, and still holds its own in any company.

Initially it had the four litre straight six-engine inherited from its predecessors, but in 1969 this was joined by a most impressive V8 — an "all aluminium" 5.3 litre unit with four overhead camshafts. The V8 duly became the standard engine and is still very much with us today, making the Aston one of the world's fastest cars.

Becoming Uneconomic

For all their glamour and prestige, the DBS cars (and the longer wheelbase Lagonda four-door variant announced for 1971) were becoming seriously uneconomic to produce. David Brown, by then



Every Aston Martin is a handbuilt car; here two skilled coachbuilders work on the front end. The body is aluminium panelled over a steel superstructure integral with the safety designed platform chassis.

a sick man, therefore sold his interest in 1972 to Company Developments Ltd.

Although the new management tried hard to cut manufacturing costs as the route to financial viability, it lacked the knowledge and experience necessary for success; Aston Martin therefore went into liquidation in 1974 and a receiver took over. By March the following year the factory contained little more than the receiver and a skeleton staff running the service department, so the end looked to be in sight.

Literally at the last moment, Aston Martin was bought in June 1975 for over one million pounds by two North American businessmen — George Minden and Peter Sprague. Minden, Canadian born but now living in England, imports Aston Martins into Canada and has a Toronto dealership for them and Rolls-Royce.

His co-chairman, Sprague, is a United States citizen and is chairman of a number of other companies including a large electronics concern with one of its factories in Scotland. Both have fin-

ancial solidity and proven business ability to back their love of high performance cars.

Their managing director, Fred Hartley, is undoubtedly the anchor-man of the new board. He has been with Aston Martin since 1963, having joined as personal assistant to the marketing director. Successively he became home sales manager, general sales manager, sales director and then marketing director before the liquidation. Thereafter he worked with the receiver and was initially appointed director and general manager on the formation of the new company.

More Efficiency

So much for the leading personalities — what of the achievements so far? The first essential, clearly, was to build the cars much more economically than hitherto. Consequently, production efficiency was investigated very thoroughly as a priority — and the findings were acted upon immediately.

Before the collapse six Aston

Martins, on average, were built each week by a work-force of 490. A similar production rate for the subsequent 12 months was set in March this year, but it being met with a staff of 220 — a manpower reduction of 55 per cent. Other steps have been taken, too, to make the company a more closely-knit, effectively managed organisation.

One worthwhile scheme has been to replace the line production of the V8s by a one engine one man building system. This technique has not only helped morale and quality control, it has actually reduced the number of man hours per engine.

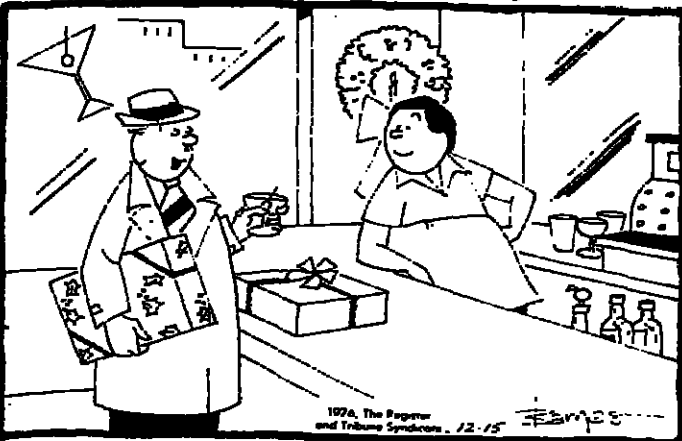
Production is at present concentrated on the two-door sports saloon and more than 70 per cent of the output is being exported — mainly to North America but also to Japan, mainland Europe and the Middle East and others. So far the four-door Lagonda version has been built only very small numbers, but it will be stepped up on completion of the new tooling being prepared.



Installation of the aluminium 5.3 litre V8 engine — an imposing power unit with its quartet of carburetors and two overhead camshafts for each bank of cylinders.

THE BETTER HALF

By Barnes



"My wife and I agreed to meet at the tea shoppe a block down if we got separated. I'm worried she might not have made it."

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES H. GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
© 1976 The Chicago Tribune

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ 432
♥ Q9
♦ 10864
♣ AKQ9

EAST
♠ KQJ
♥ KJ10
♦ KJ53
♣ Q972

SOUTH
♠ A10875
♥ A53
♦ A
♣ J762

The bidding:
South West North East
1♠ Pass 2♠ Pass
3♠ Pass 3♠ Pass
4♠ Pass Pass Pass
Opening lead: Six of ♠

Don't sneer next time you see three low trumps turn up in dummy. Had declarer realized the power of dummy's trump holding, he would not have gone down in his spade game.

North-South bid well to reach their best contract. After South raised clubs, North showed his support for spades. That left South with many options, including the possibility of playing the hand in either black suit, or perhaps no trump. South judged well in going to four spades. Unfortunately, his play was not up to the caliber of his bidding.

West got off to the best attack when he chose to lead a trump. Declarer made a key move when he allowed East's jack to hold the first trick. East continued with the queen, won by declarer's ace. Declarer now tried a heart to the queen. This would have guaranteed the contract had West held the king of hearts, or had East been dealt only two trumps.

in which case declarer would have had time to ruff his third heart in dummy, holding his losers to two trumps for down one.

Unfortunately, East gobbled up the queen of hearts with the king, drew dummy's last trump with the king and exited with a diamond. Declarer could not avoid losing a second heart for down one.

When both opponents followed to the second round of trumps, declarer could have claimed his contract. All he had to do was recognize the overwhelming importance of that seemingly unimportant third trump in dummy.

Correct technique after winning the ace of spades was to cash the ace of diamonds, cross to dummy with a high club and ruff a diamond. Declarer simply continues to use dummy's club entries to ruff the remaining diamonds. He does not mind being over-ruffed along the line, for then he will be able to score his tenth trick by ruffing a heart with that little four of trumps. And if no one over-ruffs, declarer will come to ten tricks via one high trump, three diamond ruffs in his hand, one heart, one diamond and four clubs.

THE PAGE FIVE FEATURE PHOTO



A GREAT DAY FOR GUY — Goalkeeper Dickie Guy makes an important save during his recent 500th club appearance for Wimbledon, the Southern League champions, at their home ground in Plough Lane, Wimbledon, southwest London. Roger Connell scored the only goal of the match to defeat Woking, from the Rothmans Isthmian League, to put his side through to the second round of the 1976-77 Football Association Cup competition. Since signing for the club nearly seven years ago, Dickie Guy has achieved the outstanding record of missing only one match — that was because of a cold.

GRAFFITI



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TONIGHT'S T.V. FEATURES

LUCY SHOW

GEORGE BURNS

Singer Burns convinces Lucy to work with him on the stage and share the profits he makes.



POLICE STORY

VIOLENT HOMECOMING

One of two brothers, members in rival gangs, is killed and thus triggers clash between the two gangs.

...HALLO!
IS THIS 67171-2-3-4?
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THE JORDAN TIMES...



JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

KLANF
□ □ □ □ □

WADAR
□ □ □ □ □

HODISM
□ □ □ □ □

TABMIG
□ □ □ □ □

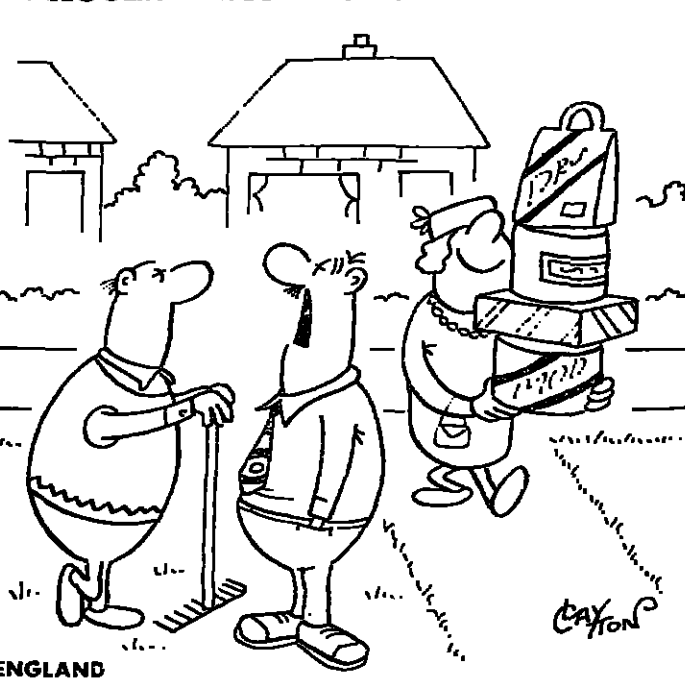


Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print surprise answer here: □ □ □ □ □

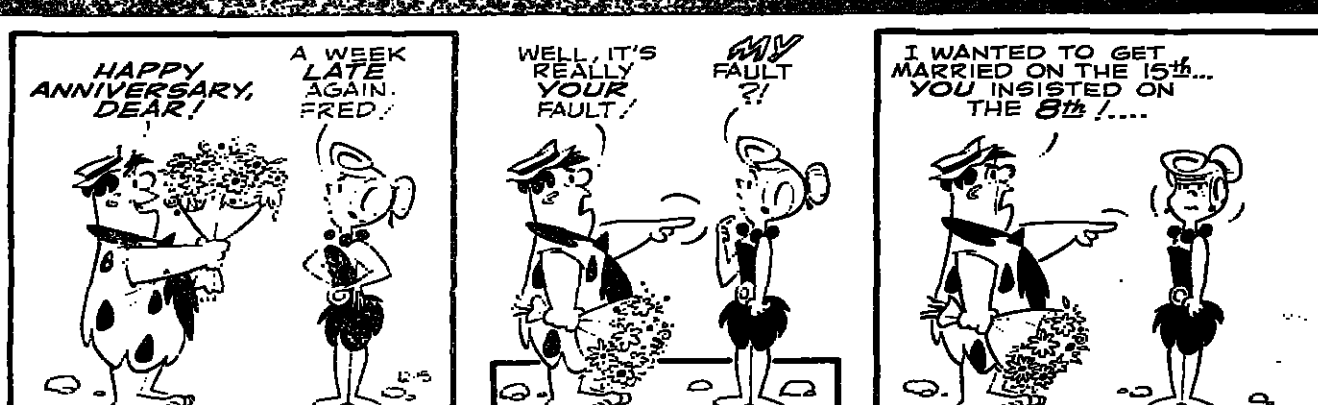
Yesterday's Jumbles: NOISE YACHT WORTHY RATION
Answer: Where you might find a carpet on a flight — ON A STAIRWAY

LAUGHS FROM EUROPE



ENGLAND
Clayton
"Alice isn't a selective shopper — anywhere that takes money will do."

THE FEINTSTONES



MUTT AND JEFF



Your Horoscope

By Jeane Dixon

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 15

Your birthday today: Sends you off on a wave of optimism for a voyage of self-discovery. Your local world discovers you as well, so that both you and your group wind up at unexpected destinations, probably better than anybody planned. Relationships vary, hit lows and highs. Today's natives are brave, open in approach, sustained by abiding faith. Those born this year are precocious, naturally gifted for leadership, politics. Their questions need candid answers; half-truths won't do if they are to prosper later in life.

Aries [March 21-April 19]: At this low point in your cycle there's already too much to cope with, yet more interesting projects pop up. Farm out activity on a temporary basis.

Taurus [April 20-May 20]: Extra details, more exact requirements than usual, troublesome contacts complicate work. Be patient. Do something nice for your home and those in it.

Gemini [May 21-June 20]: In a conglomerate of influences, work hard to protect what you earned so far. Don't neglect a friend, but you can't drop everything to meet sudden demands.

Cancer [June 21-July 22]: Everybody gets into the act. Do the best you can in confusion generated by competitive individuals. Don't add extra errands to missions you agreed on.

Leo [July 23-Aug. 22]: Support matters while you figure out ways to improve them. Stay near home; you

understand local incidents only if you see them happen. News is misleading.

Virgo [Aug. 23-Sept. 22]: However neat the surface appears, details must be corrected. The opposition is strong, not to be met directly; find something no rival is likely to try.

Libra [Sept. 23-Oct. 22]: The test is whether you can increase your drive rather than relax to rest on your laurels. Overtime is justified if you get in a lot of constructive work.

Scorpio [Oct. 23-Nov. 21]: Make the scene early, take advantage of all that passes. Important items seem trivial, noisy deals are little more than shouting. Keep things in proportion.

Sagittarius [Nov. 22-Dec. 21]: The situation is too iffy for definite commitments, and calls for one step at a time. Be sure of your stand, expect people to switch their decisions.

Capricorn [Dec. 22-Jan. 19]: Whatever you do is well watched by people you'd never suspect care enough to look. Conditions change easily, by accident. Advice should be considered.

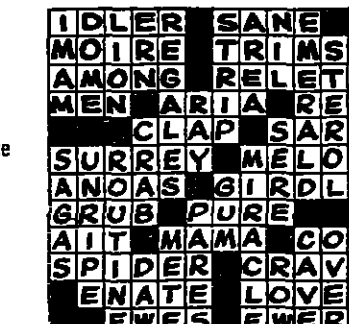
Aquarius [Jan. 20-Feb. 18]: Don't put yourself at a disadvantage: it's not appreciated. Let others think for themselves; they may agree with you. Home life includes an old mystery.

Pisces [Feb. 19-March 20]: There's no luxury in shortcuts or shirking. It's easier to go on with what's available to work with. Money changes hands swiftly; get receipts.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

1. Fraud
5. Slough
8. Newt
11. Persian larry
12. Hank of twine
13. Deplore
14. Epochal
15. Housewife's chore
17. Reactionaries
19. Japanese family badge
20. BPOE member
21. Copyreads
24. Egg white
28. Kind of dance
29. Haven
30. Harry
33. Religious maxims
36. Extinct bird
37. Bizarre
38. Hereditary
42. Wild rice
45. Dismal
46. West Indian sorcery
47. One of the Gershwins
48. Easy gait
49. Green or black
50. --- Aviv
51. Female sheep



SOLUTION OF YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

3. Sandarac tree
4. Background
5. Animal's breast
6. Blade
7. Aphorism
8. Green copper arsenate
9. Pleasances
10. Two-year old sheep
16. Beckon
18. Tree
22. Stylishness
23. Establish
24. Completely
25. Name of several Popes
26. Elephant's ear
27. So-called
31. Mythical lance
32. Ironer
34. Synthetic language
35. Receive
39. In a line
40. Recording
41. Potato buds
42. Joke
43. Seams
44. Inscrutability

Par time 25 min. AP News/Features 12-15 44, Inscrutability

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Soares in tighter squeeze following Sunday's poll

LISBON, Dec. 14 (AFP). — Portugal's ruling Socialist Party has emerged slightly weakened from Sunday's municipal elections and the minority government now faces the task of survival as it tackles the country's economic and social problems.

PERES: CARTER WILL HONOUR U.S. ARMS DEALS WITH ISRAEL

Premier Mario Soares claimed the Socialists' share of the vote — about 33 per cent, compared with 35 in April's general election — as a vote of confidence in existing policies and ruled out joining a coalition with any of the three major opposition parties.

This dashed the hopes of moderates who saw last month's domination of the Socialist Party congress by the rightwing as the chance for an alliance with the Social Democrat Party, which ran second in April and on Sunday with about 24 per cent.

Social Democrat leader Francisco sa Carneiro, speaking in a party leaders' debate on television last night, made it clear that his party's 73 deputies in parliament were now less inclined to give the five-month-old government their indulgence.

A similar view was expressed

by the leader of the 42-seat conservative Social Democratic Centre (CDS), Diogo Freitas do Amaral. The Communists, with 40 seats, have less room for manoeuvre.

TEL AVIV, Dec. 14 (R). — Israeli Defence Minister Shimon Peres said he was confident the new Carter administration in the U.S. would continue to supply Israel with all the armaments covered by negotiations with the Ford administration.

Mr. Peres said at a press conference on returning from a visit to the United States:

"I am sure the new administration will continue aid to Israel and all supplies we have negotiated will continue to reach us," including a number of American-made F-16 jet fighters.

"There is an American decision to sell them to us. What we are now discussing is the supply date and such matters, including the possibility of Israel manufacturing some of the parts. There is no decision on this point as yet," he told Reuters.



BLOODY FAILURE — The body of urban guerrilla Martino Zichitella lies in a Rome street following an unsuccessful assassination attempt Tuesday against a high official of the city's anti-terrorist squad, Dr. Alfonso Noce. Mr. Zichitella and one of Dr. Noce's police bodyguard were killed following a fierce exchange of automatic fire. Dr. Noce was wounded in the shoulder.

At left is a submachinegun used in the attempt. In the background is the small van in which the guerrillas waited all night outside Dr. Noce's home to spring their attack.

The dead gunman, a 40-year-old Sicilian, was wanted in connection with the kidnapping of a Rome judge last year.

Police said at least two men were involved in Tuesday's attack.

Police blamed the attack on the self-styled Armed Proletarian Nuclei (NAP) urban guerrilla group, held responsible for a number of terrorist attacks in Italy. Several alleged NAP leaders are currently on trial in Naples. (AP wirephoto).

Spaniards vote today under shadow of kidnappers' ultimatum

MADRID, Dec. 14, (Agencies). — Prime Minister Adolfo Suarez kept silent today on demands for the release of 15 jailed leftists made by Maoist guerrillas who kidnapped the president of Spain's advisory Council of State.

He faced the dilemma of precipitating a rightwing backlash at tomorrow's national referendum if he accepted the demands or endangering the life of Senor Antonio Maria de Oriol y Urquijo if he rejected them.

About 23 million Spaniards are eligible to vote tomorrow on the establishment of a two-house parliament through free elections after 40 years of dictatorship under the late Gen. Franco.

In a note sent last night to the liberal newspaper El Pais, the kidnappers accused the government of playing for time to enable police to track them down.

"It is a dangerous tactic which can only prejudice the government," said the GRAPO (Groups of Anti-Fascist Resistance — First of October), which kidnapped the 63-year-old Senor Oriol from his office here last Saturday.

"Do not force us to make a decision we do not like. We are prepared for anything," the kidnappers said.

The note was left in the toilet of a cafeteria. A caller who telephoned El Pais to pick it up said the kidnappers did not want money — only the release of the 15 prisoners, including members of the Basque nationalist guerrilla organisation ETA, and their transport to Algeria.

The kidnapping, coupled with a clandestine press conference in Madrid last week by exiled Communist Party Secretary General Santiago Carrillo, has deepened resentment among extreme rightwingers.

A group of veterans who fought alongside Gen. Francisco Franco in the 1936-39 civil protest today against the exclusion of their leader, Senor Jose Antonio Giron, from a selection of politicians invited to speak on state television on the referendum.

In a telegram to Prime Minister Suarez, they said: "We shall vote no and we invite all patriots to do the same — patriots who do not want the work of Gen. Franco shattered or an opening to Marxism, a policy we consider suicidal."

Hostility from the far right is matched by the leftwing opposition, which plans to boycott the

polls on the grounds that it was not consulted about the reforms to be approved, and as a protest against the lack of freedoms, particularly the right of free speech during the campaign.

On the eve of the referendum, a propaganda war was in full swing with the government, backed by seemingly unlimited funds and its media, apparently winning hands down.

In Madrid, rightwing girls wearing the slogan "Franco would have voted no" on their lapels picked their way along pavements littered with government leaflets proclaiming "Yes is the star of change."

But in the northern Basque country, an opposition stronghold, leftwing posters calling for abstention and political amnesty covered the walls.

Barring a dramatic last-minute by the secretary-general of development, the government is

expected to receive massive support — between 60 and 70 per cent — from those voting in the debate Francoist rightists picked up around the cent in "no" votes.

The absence rate will give the first assessment of the strength of the democratic forces including the Socialists, Communists and Christian Democrats.

The figure will be swayed by those who, however, have to reform, feel the referendum is a mere formality, and that the future was decided by last month's pro-government vote in the parliament.

Tonight, Premier Suarez made a 15-minute speech during the referendum campaign.

He might have referred to the events which have cast their shadow over the campaign — kidnapping of Senor Oriol, the clandestine news conference

Israel engaged in bustling but shady arms trade, Aviation Week reports

WASHINGTON, Dec. 14 (AFP). — The State Department and American business circles are worried by increasing Israeli arms exports, according to the latest issue of the magazine Aviation Week and Space Technology.

The weekly said that this year Israel had sold \$500 million worth of arms and American experts estimated that next year the figure would top \$1 billion.

This aroused fears here that Israel was using its American credits not only to buy weapons from the United States but also to resell some of those arms in

direct competition with the manufacturers on the international market, the magazine said.

American officials claim that about 35 per cent of Israel's military production is exported and that export orders to \$300 million, the magazine added.

It gave as an example a sea-to-land missile, Gabr being sold in eight countries. Another was the Kfir fighter plane, powered by a General Electric engine, being sold central and South America as well as South Africa despite the fact that such sales were again present American policy.

WORLD NEWS BRIEFS

● JEDDAH, Saudi Arabia, Dec. 14 (AFP). — Exploratory talks are taking place here between Saudi and French representatives on the setting-up of an atomic research centre in Saudi Arabia, a well-informed Saudi source said today. The Saudi Deputy Oil Minister is leading the negotiations on the Saudi side, while France is represented by a delegation from the French Centre for Atomic Research, the source said.

● ISLAMABAD, Dec. 14 (R). — Premier Constantine Karamanlis arrived here today for a four-day visit, the first by a Greek head of government to Pakistan. The visit was arranged at just five weeks notice when an envoy of Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto made a secret trip to Athens. Well-informed diplomatic sources believe Mr. Bhutto might take some initiative towards solving the Cyprus dispute between Greece and Turkey, an ally of Pakistan. Talking to reporters at Islamabad airport before Mr. Karamanlis arrived, Mr. Bhutto acknowledged that they would discuss Cyprus.

● CAIRO, Dec. 14 (AFP). — Twenty-four African and Arab foreign ministers will meet here next month in preparation for the Afro-Arab summit scheduled for March, Arab League Assistant Secretary General Sayed Nofal was quoted as saying today by Al Gomhouriya newspaper.

● TOKYO, Dec. 14 (R). — Parliament will hold a special session later this month to elect a new prime minister to succeed Mr. Takeo Miki, an official of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) said today. Conservative party leaders said an LDP candidate for the job would be chosen on Dec. 23, the day before the start of the four-day special session.

● JERUSALEM, Dec. 14 (R). — Three U.S.-built F-15 jet fighters sparked off a religious and political row in Israel by arriving half an hour later than scheduled, impinging on the Sabbath. The three jets were being delivered to the Israeli air force and the ultra-religious Agudat Israel opposition party has tabled a no-confidence resolution in the Knesset, saying their late arrival last Friday caused members of the official welcome party to be away from their homes at the start of the Sabbath, as demanded by Jewish law. Mr. Rabin has expressed his regrets over the affair to the cabinet.

● TRIPOLI, Dec. 14 (AFP). — Philippine Moslem rebel leader Nur Musuari, in Libya for talks with a Manila government official, today said he wanted autonomy, not complete independence, for the southern Philippines. Interviewed by the Libyan Arab Revolution News Agency (ARNA), he said he hoped talks starting tomorrow with the Philippine Deputy Defence Minister, Carmelo Barbero, would "produce an equitable solution guaranteeing the rights of the Moslem community to autonomy."

● JOHANNESBURG, Dec. 14 (R). — Black newspaper editor Percy Qoboza, one of the best-known figures in South Africa, was held for questioning for eight hours today after security police raided his house in the middle of the night. The detention provoked protests here and overseas and informed sources said a political hearing would probably be held on the affair. Mr. Qoboza, 38, is editor of the World, South Africa's major newspaper for blacks and the second biggest selling newspaper in the republic. At the height of the clashes in Soweto and other townships earlier this year, the World was often the sole source of information about events.

Unified Vietnam opens first party congress

HONG KONG, Dec. 14 (Agencies). — Vietnam's first Communist Party congress since national reunification opened in Hanoi today with an announcement by the President of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, Ton Duc Thang, that it would set the country on a new course and change the party constitution.

The official Vietnam News Agency reported that around 1,000 delegates representing Vietnam, fraternal communist parties and other countries attended the opening of the Fourth Congress of the Vietnamese Workers' (Communist) Party at the Ba Dinh conference hall.

Among the 29 foreign delegations present there were few from Asia, and China was a notable absentee.

The news agency quoted the president as saying in his opening speech today that the congress would "decide on the line for the Vietnamese revolution in the new

stage" on the orientation and tasks of the second five-year state plan (1976-80), on the modification of the party constitution and on electing a new party central committee.

He was followed by party First Secretary Le Duan who delivered a 240-page report on general policy lasting the whole day.

The report recommended (1) greater cohesion in the socialist camp, implying reconciliation between the Soviet Union and China.

(2) a more liberal policy towards other countries, regardless of their political regime, in a spirit of "frank and open cooperation".

(3) special relations between Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia. Observers noted however that Cambodia did not send a delegation to Hanoi to attend the congress.

(4) an improvement in living standards by giving priority to the rural economy and light industry before heavy industry.

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LONDON MARKET REPORT

The market closed lower Tuesday, extending earlier falls after the sharp deficit in the UK trade balance for November. At 15:00 the F.T. index was eight points down at 325.7 on profit-taking. The trade data produced a mark-down but dealers report little selling pressure.

Leading issues were led lower by Glaxo which lost 16p.

Government bonds showed little change but in after-hours long dated loans were marked down by up to 3/4 before buying interest pared the loss, market sources said.

Fisons, ICI, Bats, Hawker and Beecham were between 12p and 14p lower. Uncertainty surrounding the possible sale of part of the government's holding in B.P. caused a 14p drop in the share price. Shell was 8p off. Banks lost up to 10p.

Gold producers ended little changed on balance after a rally in the bullion price at the afternoon fixing prompted a mark up. Actual trading interest was small, dealers said. Australians were fractionally harder.

Arthur Guinness was around 3p higher after reporting higher profits.